

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless network adapter adapted to mate with a computer system, comprising:

wireless communication circuitry;

a bus connector adapted to couple the wireless communication circuitry to an expansion bus in the computer system;

an RF antenna for communication with a wireless network; and

a radio modem that converts between digital and modulated analog signals;

wherein the network adapter is adapted to fit in a recess formed in an outer surface of the computer system to thereby couple the bus connector to the expansion bus and permit the exterior surface of the computer system to function as the RF antenna.

2. The wireless network adapter of claim 1, wherein the computer system comprises a laptop computer having a hinged display, and the network adapter is adapted to fit in a recess formed in outer surface of the display.

3. A wireless network adapter adapted to mate with a computer system, comprising:

wireless communication circuitry adapted to fit within a recess in an outer surface of the computer system;

a bus connector adapted to couple the wireless communication circuitry to an expansion bus in the computer system;

an antenna for communication with a wireless network and adapted to fit within the recess; and

a detachable cover adapted to encase the communication circuitry and antenna and cover the recess.

4. The wireless network adapter of claim 3 wherein the computer system comprises a portable computer having a hinged display and the detachable cover is adapted to cover a recess formed in the display.

5. A wireless network adapter adapted to mate with a hinged lid of laptop computer, comprising:

wireless communication circuitry;

an antenna coupled to the wireless communication circuitry;

wherein the communication circuitry and antenna are adapted to attach to the lid; and

a detachable cover adapted to encase the communication circuitry and antenna and to adapted to function as a latch release for the lid.

6. The wireless network adapter of claim 5 wherein the communication circuitry and antenna are adapted to fit in a recess formed in the lid and the detachable cover is adapted to cover the recess.